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"The teachings of the Gospel exert a profound influence upon the world. The Gospel is a code of principles which are declared to be principles of salvation to those who will receive and obey them."—RUDGER CLAWSON.

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THE HOW, WHEN AND WHY OF THIS EARTH AND MAN

ELDER NEPHI L. MORRIS

IT IS in connection with these great revelations which came to the Church in the form of the Book of Moses and the Book of Abraham that I desire to speak of Joseph Smith as a revelator of divine truth. And as evidence of this divine calling and gift I desire to call upon modern science to substantiate the claim we make for the sacred mission and calling of the Prophet.

Joseph Smith was not a scientist because he revealed truths of scientific significance; he was a Revelator. He was not a historian because he revealed, by a divine gift, the partial history of some of the ancient inhabitants of the American continent; he was a translator.

He was not a doctor of medicine because he revealed certain methods of living which would promote health and develop the highest physical and mental efficiency, nor was he a dietitian because he made known certain foods which were specifically beneficial and designated others which were "not good for man." He was a Revelator. He was not an astronomer because he revealed and translated the books of Abraham and Moses which make known something about the times and movements of worlds and planetary systems; he was a Revelator. Joseph Smith was Prophet, Seer and Revelator.

As confirmatory evidence of this divine gift in operation through the Prophet as Revelator, I desire to read a very few modern observations on the great science of astronomy, as expressed in the book, *The Mysterious Universe*, by Sir James Jeans. I think they will show that the Prophet Joseph Smith

made known great and fundamental truths pertaining to the universe and man, one hundred years before his time, and that he placed God in the picture where He is and always will be. This fact, though in a small way, gives us to understand more clearly a little about this mysterious and marvelous universe. I think also that these revelations will enable us to see in the universe its cosmic value and beauty, instead of so much of chaos and chance, with despair and disappointment as to the final outcome of things.

SPIRITUAL BACKGROUND

They also disclose the wholesome fact that a system of marvelous order and perfection is based on intelligence and purpose, activated by divine love. They reveal the great truth which a group of scientists is more and more beginning to recognize, namely, that there is a spiritual force and power which lies behind and beyond this physical universe; and that this spiritual force emanates from the Deity, whose children we are.

Let us read from Sir James Jeans' work, under the heading of "The Dying Sun":

"A few stars are known which are hardly bigger than the earth, but the majority of them are so large that hundreds and thousands of earths could be packed inside each and leave room to spare; here and there we come upon a giant star large enough to contain millions of earths. And the total number of stars in the universe is probably something like the total number of grains of sand on all the sea shores of the world. Such is the littleness of our home in space, when measured up against the total substance of the universe.

"The vast multitude of stars are wandering about in space. A few form groups which journey in company, but the majority are solitary travelers. And they travel through a universe so spacious that it is an event of almost unimaginable rarity for a star to come anywhere near to another star. . . .

"We believe, nevertheless," says Jeans, "that some two thousand million years ago this rare event took place, and that a second star, wandering blindly through space, happened to come within hailing distance of the sun. Just as the sun and moon raise tides on the earth, so this second star must have raised tides on the surface of the sun, but they would be very different from the puny tides which the small mass of the moon raises in our oceans. A large tidal wave must have traveled over the surface of the sun, ultimately forming a mountain of prodigious height, which would rise ever higher and higher as the cause of the disturbance came nearer and nearer. And before the second star began to recede, its tidal pull had become so powerful that this mountain was torn to pieces and threw off small fragments of itself, much as the crest of a wave throws off spray. These small fragments have been circulating around their parent sun ever since. They are the planets, great and small, of which our earth is one."

¹ Even though these bold conclusions are somewhat qualified they

may be more or less disturbing to the mind of the average man. They are the honest convictions of a mind scientifically trained and one quite universally recognized in the world of science. On the other hand, we should bear in mind the fact that there is another school of thought of equally high standing that draws somewhat different conclusions from the same set of facts and circumstances. This latter school does not regard blind chance, or "stumbling" in methods, or "accidental" occurrences as the dominating factors that brought about the earth and life and the existence of man as its crowning glory. This school rather holds to the idea that the welfare of man is apparently the major purpose, and his development and ultimate happiness the divine objective of the whole vast program. This school does not believe that man is an accidental "by-product" of exceedingly "rare occurrence" of say, once in several millions of years. This school holds that after the so-called accident occurred that brought the earth into being that a second accident which produced life suggests purpose and design rather than "the blind play of chance."

THE HOW, WHEN, AND WHY

In the Pearl of Great Price the Deity speaks of the multitudes of His creations and the innumerable works of His hands which were just as bewildering and incomprehensible to man as those described by Jeans as terrifying because of their vastness as to number, size, and the necessary dim vistas of time through which they extend. I read from the Book of Moses 1: 27-39, which was given to Joseph Smith in the form of a revelation just about one hundred years ago :

And it came to pass, as the voice was still speaking, Moses cast his eyes and beheld the earth, yea, even all of it; and there was not a particle of it which he did not behold, discerning it by the Spirit of God.

And he beheld also the inhabitants thereof, and there was not a soul which he beheld not; and he discerned them by the Spirit of God; and their numbers were great, even numberless as the sand upon the sea shore.

And he beheld many lands; and each land was called earth, and there were inhabitants on the face thereof.

And it came to pass that Moses called upon God, saying: Tell me, I pray thee, why these things are so, and by what (or how) thou madest them?

And behold, the glory of the Lord was upon Moses, so that Moses stood in the presence of God, and talked with him face to face. And the Lord God said unto Moses: For mine own purposes have I made these things. Here is wisdom and it remaineth in me.

It will be observed that while Moses beheld the numberless worlds and the equally numberless souls of men dwelling upon the face of earths that he asked the irrepressible "How" and

“Why” which find their way out of the depths of Sir James Jeans’ soul, as they must come from every man who beholds, even in a very limited way, the works of nature: “Tell me, I pray thee, why these things are so, and by what thou madest them?” Those are the universal questions of the human race arising from the heart of every generation that has beheld the star-lit firmament which gave man his first vision of the inescapable infinite. It is to be observed that the Deity did not answer the questions except to the extent of saying that they were made for His own purpose and that there is wisdom in His purpose. The question “How” is only partially answered and that was by stating that these things were made by “the word of my power, which is mine Only Begotten Son.”

MANY WORLDS HAVE PASSED AWAY BUT ARE REPLACED

Following this partial answer of “How,” the Creator makes the declaration that “many worlds have passed away by the word of my power.” In other works of Jeans’ than the one mentioned here the great scientist advocates the “heat-death,” or thermodynamic destruction of the universe. The constant radiation of the sun means its own demise at some remote day. . . . Dr Robert A. Millikan, of California, proposes that the finger prints of God are discernable in the universe, that He is still “on the job.” He says: “This continuous atomic destruction is off-set by the equally continuous building-up process of cosmic rays originating in the coldest depth of interstellar space and penetrating to the stars. This interstellar space is a coal-bin perpetually drawn upon but never exhausted.”

The revelations given through Joseph Smith one hundred years ago declared the truthfulness of modern scientific conclusions with respect to the passing of earths and suns and in confirmation of Dr. Millikan’s assuring conclusions that the Creator is still on His job. The cosmic ray is probably a never-failing source of energy and matter out of which worlds are made. And “Mormonism,” by means of these revealed truths a century ahead of its time assures us that these passing worlds go, not by chance or accident, but by the word or decree and power of the Deity. And “Mormonism” goes still farther by giving the great assurance that “God is still on the job,” as there is no end to His works, nor His words.

ANSWER TO THE QUESTION “WHY”

In the revelation to Moses the Deity does not answer the question as to WHEN or WHY or HOW until Moses humbly pleads: “Be merciful unto thy servant, O God, and tell me concerning this earth, and the inhabitants thereof, and also the heavens, and then thy servant will be content.” Thus reducing the field

of inquiry to something vastly nearer to man's comprehension, the Deity condescends to give the answer to the great question WHY. Moses said: "Tell me, I pray thee, why these things are so." Then came the answer regarding the narrower scope of inquiry: "There is no end to my works, neither to my words. For behold this is my work and my glory—to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man." That is the answer to the WHY. And it is, incidentally, the most perfect and god-like definition of God's glory ever given to man.

As to the WHEN, there is little likelihood of fixing anything like even approximate or reasonable nearness to the beginning of our earth. By association with another great event revealed in the Book of Job we can state when the earth was first contemplated. It was when the morning stars and the sons of God shouted for joy at the prospects of passing through a mortal life to be experienced upon the earth, then about to be occupied by man. "Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding." Only God, the Omniscient, could ask such a question. And without revelation from the Deity man could not answer the question. The question was asked to impress man with his own insignificance.

Sir James Jeans stated that "some two thousand million years ago" the earth and all of our planetary system came into existence. At present that is the accepted estimate of the age of the earth. In confirmation of the conclusion, I herewith submit a short statement of the case as published in the May number of *Current History*. It appeared under the department of Science Service, of which Watson Davis is editor:

PROBABLE APPROXIMATE AGE OF EARTH

The age of the earth is at least 2,000,000,000 years, according to a committee of scientists appointed by the National Research Council, who have been investigating the problem for the past four years. The radioactive minerals, uranium and thorium, which spontaneously disintegrate into lead, give the best clue to the earth's age. By carefully analyzing the radioactive minerals and their products in a sample of rock, it is possible to tell how long it has been in existence. The oldest rock in the world, whose age has been determined in this way, is a piece of uranite or uranium bearing rock from Dinyaya Pala, Carelia, Russia. It is 1,852,000,000 years old, and as it occurs in rocks that were intruded into the surrounding rocks, which therefore must be older, the scientists conclude that the age of the earth must be in round numbers at least 2,000,000,000 years. Estimates of the age of the earth have been multiplied by more than twenty during the last three decades. The old idea that the amount of salt in the ocean is an index of the earth's age was found by the National Research Council committee to be unreliable, as only 100,000,000 years can be accounted for by this method. At the turn of the century this was a favourite figure for the earth's age.

Professor E. W. Brown, Yale astronomer, concluded that while

there are no known astronomical methods, the two billion year age is consistent with astronomical probabilities.

AN INTERESTING FIND

While I do not attach any particular importance to this little find which I here insert, I deem it of sufficient interest, to say the least, to introduce it in connection with the brief observations upon this subject, viz., the age of the earth.

In the late 1830's and early 1840's the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints published a small semi-monthly periodical called *Times and Seasons*. . . . In volume 5, 1845, No. 24, a letter appeared addressed to one William Smith, written by William W. Phelps. . . . The letter is dated December 25th, 1844. It contains this allusion to the place of Jesus Christ in the divine economy prior to His earth life: "Whose goings forth, as the prophets said, have been from of old, from eternity; and that eternity, agreeably to the records found in the catacombs of Egypt, has been going on in this system, (not in this world) almost two thousand five hundred and fifty-five millions of years; and to know at the same time that deists, geologists and others are trying to prove that matter must have existed hundreds of thousands of years, etc."

This statement is supposedly based upon information obtained from the manuscripts purchased from Mr. Chandler from which the Book of Abraham was translated and published as a part of the Pearl of Great Price. While the remarkable statement as to when this planetary system was organized may not be ascribed to Joseph Smith, for lack of existing evidence to establish such authorship, the conclusion is irresistible that that was the only source through which such a startling bit of calculation could come. Mr. Phelps was closely associated with the Prophet; he was intimate in the councils of the presiding quorums of the Church; he was editor of one of the foremost publications of the Church, the *Evening and the Morning Star*; he signed official publications with such men as John Taylor and Parley P. Pratt, Willard Richards, one in particular announcing the martyrdom of the Prophet and advising the Church members of their responsibilities in that great crisis; he presided over the Church in Missouri and was associated with the Prophet in the very work of translating the Egyptian manuscripts. So, if there is any credit to be attached to this statement as to the age of our system it may by inference be ascribed to Joseph Smith because he was the only one who acted as translator of the writings which came from the catacombs of Egypt.

As to the accuracy and reliability of the figures we have nothing to say except that it is extremely interesting to find them in an almost forgotten volume of Church literature of nearly one hundred years ago, and it is in striking accord with the estimates

of the age of the earth made by scientists of outstanding ability to-day.

Here is another answer to the question How, When and Why.

As to How, behold the curtains that divide Time from Eternity thrown aside. Peer through the veil of mortality and with the aid of revelation behold the Gods in their laboratory considering the organization of worlds. "One like unto God" was undoubtedly the Son of God, as we know Him, and He said, indicating a designated place in the universe, "there is space there, and we will take of these materials, and we will make an earth whereon these may dwell." Space always existed. Materials came from somewhere and always existed in one form or another. These materials out of which the new earth was to be formed or organized might have come from the sun, a sort of parent planet, in form suitable for separation, or division, into smaller bodies. This may have been the method employed by the Deity such as Sir James Jeans suggests as the process employed in producing the earth and other bodies belonging to our family group. It might be more easily comprehended by some if steam shovels and derricks had been mentioned along with, say, The Six Companies, Incorporated, or some such organized undertaking. As to the agencies employed by the Creator we have but one conclusion and that is that they were natural and according to law. They were forces set in operation by His word or will and power, design and purpose actuating the whole sublime and wise undertaking. Not "blind chance" stumbling along its uncertain and devious path through a maze of millions of purposeless ages.

THE GLORY OF GOD IS THE ANSWER TO THE WHY

God stood in the midst of intelligent human spirits who had maintained their integrity to truth in their earliest estate, or sphere of experience. Another school of experience was to be opened to them for their growth and advancement. They were noble in nature. Who they were may be inferred from the statement that Abraham was one of them. They were the children of God in their pre-existent life. Presumably, all of us were there and when the glad announcement that a new world was to be made upon which we might dwell, and through the experiences of such an existence our progress in knowledge and power be advanced, we, as sons and daughters of God, "shouted for joy and sang together." It must have been a bright and inspiring prospect to cause such rejoicing. Incidentally, if the lives we are now living were fully appreciated at that remote day, it must have more of potential happiness in it than we now see to cause such joy and gladness. And as a complete answer to the question *Why*, consider the statement—"we will prove

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 1932

EDITORIAL

MEDITATION BEFORE A PICTURE OF THE NATIVITY

A STABLE SWEET—a manger—grass and hay—
An ass—an ox, and other creatures mild!
Dear God! the palace—purple cloth to wrap
The babe—where then are they? There is not here
The glamour of the orient kings!

Let us

Not be ashamed to hail the object fair
Who thus compels our knees to bend to Him
In deepest adoration. This dear child
Is He whom we adore—a child more filled
With days than very time; who found Himself
The heart of things when things were made. He there
Took part in building this great universe;
No thing that was, was without Him from first
To last of that design, until the end
When lay the tapestry complete.

This child

Shall make the oracles grow dumb before
They have begun to speak. The demon crowd
Shall have their mouths shut up by this fair boy
While yet He smiles upon His mother's breast.
His cradle in the lowly stall this day
Has banished all the princes of this world.
The temples dark, the altars grim and red,
The cornerstones of black idolatry,
By Him are cast to earth in heaps confused.
This Man whom God to Nature gave before
The Prophets cried to Him to send the kings
To rule the waiting nations—lo! this Man
At last has come from heaven to cast down
The thrones of earth where many puppet kings
Have sat and worshiped gods which they have made.

II.

THIS MAN is not content that idols fall
And demons are struck dumb. He will also
Confound our human knowledge, take away
The final word from our philosophers.

He will show up impostors everywhere,
 And point the hand of scorn at those wise men
 Who thought themselves more just than their own poets
 When they were only more composed and grave
 In their extravagance. He, too, will show
 The thinker that He only dreamed the while
 He wished to meditate. This Man will be
 The calm accorder of the arguing hosts
 When He has all refuted by His words.

It had to be that Truth a human form
 Should take unto itself, that so it might
 Be rendered capable of being seen
 And touched—to be familiar to all men.
 This Truth none other is than JESUS CHRIST.

—From the French of Jean-Louis Balzac (1594-1654). Rendered
 into English by OLIVE LUCY WATKINS.

"MORMONISM"

NEPHI JENSEN

"MORMONISM" is the accumulated truth, wisdom, ethics, ideals, spiritual gifts, graces, and powers of all the dispensations of God, restored to the world in modern times by divine inspiration, revelation, and the ministry of holy angels; and committed to a divinely organized Church which is vested with power and authority to speak and act in the name of the Most High.

Through a divinely inspired Priesthood this true Church of Christ teaches its wealth of re-revealed truth, effectively inculcates its pure ethical principles, persistently upholds its exalting ideals, and graciously administers its spiritual gifts, to the enlightenment, guidance, comfort, healing, uplifting, purification, and salvation of mankind.

All that is true in science, all that is beautiful in art, all that is noble in philosophy, and all that is inspiring and uplifting in religion is a part of "Mormonism." With these splendid agencies, it quickens into life every lofty thought, every fine impulse, every exalting aspiration, and every worthy endeavour. It fosters industry and thrift, promotes education and art, provides wholesome, joyous recreation, inspires reverence for the eternal verities, stimulates faith in God and hope of immortality, purifies the heart, refines the spirit, ennobles the mind; and brings to its votaries the deep, sweet, joyous "abundant life," in this world, and eternal glory and exaltation in the world to come.

THE HOW, WHEN AND WHY OF THIS EARTH AND MAN

(Concluded from page 7)

them herewith, to see if they will do all things whatsoever the Lord their God shall command them." These were the spirit children of God for whom earthly bodies were provided through Father Adam.

Undoubtedly man was placed upon the earth in order that he might exercise the God-given free agency which surrounds his existence here. He could use his own volition in choosing between good and evil. The circumstances of his earth environment create a sort of tutorship by which the consequences of wrong or righteous conduct write deeply in the character of the individual the lessons of this school. Experience is the great teacher. The Creator established the laws and man was to be given the opportunity of choosing the evil or the good as he might wish. And they who are obedient to the law and will of God will prove their individual integrity to the truth, and their lives shall be added upon. Eternal and endless lives shall come of theirs and they shall attain to Godliness by obedience to the laws of God. And to bring this felicitous state into the lives of the children of God, this earth was organized and another opportunity afforded to man. And to bring about the ultimate eternal happiness and perfect development of the souls of men is the avowed intent and will of the Father. His success in the tremendous undertaking means glory to Him and His. Not a selfish glory in which He participates only, but a triumphant accomplishment in which all who will may share. It takes more than one to produce happiness. It takes a human family to attain to full glory. The larger the number of saved and exalted souls the more extensive the glory.

And this is God's answer to the eternal why of human existence. It is a great truth worthy of a divine communication in this dispensation of the fulness of times:

For behold this is my work and my glory—to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man.

MAN'S PLACE IN THE UNIVERSE

Man's place in the universe is one of supreme importance. If the plan which brought about the creation or organization of this earth is an analogy of other worlds, then the universe is the visible abode of man, and God is the Architect and Builder.

As a culminating testimony of the Prophet Joseph Smith, as Revelator, let us here introduce a few verses of a glorious revelation given to him on February 16th, 1832. This great revelation indicates the place of the Only Begotten Son from the beginning as being on the right hand of the Father; it makes of Joseph

Smith a new witness for the Saviour of men; it gives renewed assurance that He still lives; that He is still creating worlds for man to dwell upon; that He is providing a place of eternal happiness for every righteous man in accordance with his deserts and capacity to avail himself of God's salvation; it indicates the supreme importance of man's acceptance of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in its fulness if he would attain to the highest, or celestial glory; it asserts the fatherhood of God, not only with respect to His children upon this little earth, but it speaks of the inhabitants of other worlds as "the sons and daughters unto God."

By the power of the Spirit our eyes were opened and our understandings were enlightened, so as to see and understand the things of God—

Even those things which were from the beginning before the world was, which were ordained of the Father, through his Only Begotten Son, who was in the bosom of the Father, even from the beginning;

Of whom we bear record; and the record which we bear is the fulness of the gospel of Jesus Christ, who is the Son, whom we saw and with whom we conversed in the heavenly vision.

And now, after the many testimonies which have been given of him, this is the testimony, last of all, which we give of him: That he lives!

For we saw him, even on the right hand of God; and we heard the voice bearing record that he is the Only Begotten of the Father—

That by him, and through him, and of him, the worlds are and were created, and the inhabitants thereof are begotten sons and daughters unto God.

These are the sacred assurances which God has so generously given to His Church in this great Dispensation of the Fulness of Times. This world was not made by chance. Man's existence is no accident. He did not unexpectedly stumble into existence here by a "blind play of chance." He is not a "by-product" of nature, an accident likely to happen whenever and wherever time for such an accidental occurrence is given. The inhabitants of this world, and of others, which are now being made are "begotten sons and daughters unto God." These are the truthful testimonies of holy and just men of this day and age. To the witnesses of these truths, as one of the very weakest among them, may I add my humble testimony which is that these things are true.

Though wrapt in clouds, yet still and still
 The steadfast Sun th' empyrean sways;
 There still prevails a holy will;
 'Tis not blind chance the world obeys;
 The eye Eternal, pure and clear,
 Regards and holds all beings dear.

In Jesus' name. Amen.—Excerpts from an address delivered in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Utah, U.S.A., August 16th, 1931.

AN EARLY EUROPEAN MISSION PRIMARY ORGANIZATION

MRS. CAROLINE J. HATCH

[THIS early Primary Association was organized December 20th, 1919, in the Handsworth Branch, Birmingham Conference of the British Mission, which was at that time under the jurisdiction of the European Mission president. The organizer of this European Primary is Mrs. Caroline J. Hatch of Salt Lake City, Utah, wife of Charles W. Hatch, who was then conference president.

Mrs. Hatch, still an enthusiastic Primary worker tells the following story of the organization of this early Primary group in the British Isles. In a later issue will appear the story of an earlier Primary organization in Great Britain.]

Sunday School Superintendent Charles Collins of the Handsworth Branch, one Sunday morning was pleading, as he had done on many previous occasions, for better attendance of children. While Superintendent Collins was making his plea the following inspiration presented itself to me quite forcefully:

“These children need more of the Gospel taught to them.”

Because of my experience in Primary and Religion Class work, I felt that this would be an answer to the statement which I believe presented itself to me through the Holy Spirit, and I accepted the challenge.

All my life I had been a member or worker in Primary, and for eight years in several school districts where I taught, my school register served as my Religion Class roll, for after consulting their parents, non-members attended the Religion Class without exception in every district I was in in those eight years.

In this work I learned that children appreciate above all other things, love, truth, encouragement, and the light of the Gospel. These I resolved could be given to the children of the Handsworth Branch in the same manner that I had given them to my children in Utah.

I suggested the organization of a Primary Association to my husband and to John M. Joseph, Branch President. After due consideration the Primary Association, one of the first in the European Mission of the Church, was organized, December 20th, 1919, with myself as president, Nellie Mason and Dorothy Blackmore as teachers and Lizzie Bennett as organist.

There were only nine children present at that first Primary meeting, but the teachers were there and the organization got off to an auspicious beginning as far as enthusiasm was concerned.

The Primary continued to be held and the children continued to come until the attendance had increased to between thirty and forty children every day, except when we had play hour or on special occasions, at which times the attendance of Primary children, visiting children and adults, grew so that they were too numerous to be counted.

On every day that we had our play hour, little urchins gathered at the gate, eagerly watching the proceedings. As the days passed the crowd increased until yard, sidewalks and gateway were jammed, the gate having been broken by the mob of children. The Primary members seemed proud of their numerous envious spectators. To avoid any trouble and build up a feeling of friendliness between the members and their watchers, I would say before each play period or meeting time :

“Those of you who want to join us in our dancing and games may ask your mothers, then you will be very welcome and can come in with us.”

Some of the children took advantage of this and we added several members in this way.

On Arbour Day, a day before unknown to these children, the spectators were not allowed in the small front yard of the chapel, but despite this the iron fence held up a large group of children which clung to it, eagerly watching the special observance going on within. The scene they witnessed was a group of elated Primary members preparing and planting a circular bed of pansies bordered with daisies and forget-me-nots, and along the wall a border of dahlias and snapdragons.

Such happy children. None of them had ever had the space or the opportunity of making a flower bed and they were making the most of this occasion.

The teachers, too, became more and more interested in Primary work and the children continued to take increased delight in the lessons, dealing with the noble pioneer characters of the West and new truths of the Gospel. Under the able leadership of Nora Makin, play leader, the children became enthusiastic dancers and participants in many Primary games.

It was through this means that several women, mothers of Primary members, were converted and as the association grew the teachers gave way to these mothers and women converts who took interest in the children and the Primary work. In one family two girls and three boys, regular members of the Primary, were baptized as also was their widowed mother.

One large family of “Mormons,” fourteen in all, had become inactive, the father returning to his tobacco, and the discouraged mother complained of poor clothing, not suitable for Church. She was, however, converted to the fact that the childrens' clothes for school were good enough to wear to Primary and she permitted them to join. Not long afterward, every one in the family was taking an active part, the children being talented, added to the value of our Primary work. Their father cast his pipe away for good.

My heart was so often drawn to the polite children. One of the most sorrowful scenes was the little children, some standing, some crouched down on the curbing of the narrow sidewalk, trying

to keep out of the way of the street traffic on one side and the pedestrians on the other, waiting for the doors of the public houses to open and for "mamma" and "papa" to be turned out with the rest of the reeling, loudly jabbering, silly, laughing crowd.

If I had had the right, I am sure I could have gathered each child of its own volition to nearby "Mormon" homes and held splendid Primary meetings. It is my firm belief that some of the parents, if rightly appealed to in some of their sober moments, would allow their children to attend. I longed for the opportunity to come when "A little child should lead them."

By means of an organized program our little Primary Association tried to aid in spreading the Gospel message. July 24th, 1920, was a gala day.

An extensive program consisting of a dramatization of the interesting features in the lives and travels of the pioneers was presented. The parade of children in pioneer dress and bonnet with small covered wagons and handcarts, traveled through the yard, down one aisle, and up the other of the chapel, through the large audience gathered for the occasion, and on to the stage where they completed an encampment.

The characters spoke the true historical words of the Church in the first part. From the beginning to the end of the program the Holy Spirit prevailed, for the children had prayed for the Lord to help them.

After the call of the "Mormon Battalion," the gentle touch of Eliza R. Snow among the sick and other touching scenes, came the dance and music around the camp-fires, and the visit of Indians gave Western colour. The entire audience was thrilled when William Clayton presented his song to the company of pioneers, and the entire group and visitors joined in singing the song, "Come, Come Ye Saints."

The tercentenary of the Pilgrim Fathers was another fitting occasion observed by this Primary. Two stages were built. Upon the upper in pageant form, the children presented the Puritans leaving England because of religious persecutions, their home in Holland, and finally the embarking for, and landing in, America; the preparation of America for the Gospel; the Government and the Constitution of the country making it safe for religious freedom, and finally the prayer of Joseph Smith and the restoration of the Gospel.

Upon the lower stage the true history of every episode presented on the upper stages was recited and sung by the children; while I read the most difficult parts.

These scenes of the dainty Puritan maidens turning into Holland misses and the other scenes were inspiring. At the conclusion I named several of the Church leaders who were descendants from these Pilgrim Fathers, and then introduced Elder George Albert Smith to the audience as one of these descendants.

His first remark was, "Why have we not more Primaries in England?" He then gave us a splendid address on the theme of the pageant, making the evening one of the most enjoyable I experienced during my mission.

Upon my return home I went to President Louie B. Felt, and Counselor May Anderson, now president of the Primary Association, and told them of my faith in Primary work in the mission fields.

The faith of Mrs. Hatch is upheld in the fact that there is now several Primary Associations in every mission of the world and that a special program of work, suitable to mission conditions is now adopted by the general board.

This new program of work is just being introduced and with the work in the missions of the Church becoming more and more stabilized, the future of Primary work throughout the world is brighter than ever before, thanks to the faith and industry of Mrs. Hatch and missionary friends who took interest in teaching the Gospel to the boys and girls of the Handsworth and other Branches more than twelve years ago.—Published in the *Deseret News*, Saturday, November 7th, 1931.

FROM THE MISSION FIELD

Transfer: On December 17th, Elder E. Wendell Stringfellow was transferred from the Newcastle to the Sheffield District.

Appointment and Release: On December 15th, Elder Rulon Day Newell was appointed president of the Sheffield District, succeeding President James C. Rawlinson.

Releases and Departures: The following missionaries have been honourably released from their labours in the British Mission and have departed for their homes in America: James R. Clark, Bristol and Newcastle Districts, Elwood A. Gee, Birmingham and Leeds Districts, O. Sherwin Webb, Scottish and Birmingham Districts, released on November 29th, sailed from Cherbourg, and Noel T. Stoddard, Liverpool and Leeds District, released November 29th, sailed from Southampton, December 19th, aboard the *Leviathan*; James C. Rawlinson, Nottingham and Sheffield and president of Sheffield District, released December 14th, sailed from Southampton on December 24th, aboard the *President Roosevelt*.

Doings in the Districts: *Hull*—The Grimsby Branch Sunday School sponsored a most successful social on November 30th, the funds from which are to give the kiddies a Christmas Treat. The program was of extraordinary composition. Through the untiring efforts of Sister Jessie Nurse, the Kiddies presented a wonderful drama of "Dreamland." The M. I. A. furnished an interesting comic sketch, "The Bugginsis"

Picnic." The one hundred persons who were present then enjoyed participating in community singing, followed by games and dancing.

Welsh—On Monday evening, November 23rd, a conjoint M. I. A. and farewell social was held at the Memorial Hall, Varteg, Mon., in honour of Elder Thomas Briggs who has departed for his home in America. The large gathering of members and their friends, all of whom either participated on the program or took part in the games and community singing, thoroughly enjoyed the evening. The M. I. A. and Relief Society Officers served refreshments.

Branch Conferences: Of the Clayton Branch, Leeds District, held on October 25th. During the afternoon session a befitting program was given showing the need of the auxiliaries in the Church. Those who attended the evening services enjoyed a real spiritual feast. Among those present were President O. Horton Transtrum and Elder Elwood A. Gee.

Of the Halifax Branch, Leeds District, held on November 1st. The pageant, "Hungry Souls Satisfied," was well presented at the afternoon session, depicting how the Gospel brings happiness to those searching after truth. The pageant theme was developed very interestingly at the evening meeting to a large audience of saints. President O. Horton Transtrum and Elders Noel T. Stoddard and Cyril A. Linford were in attendance.

Of the Hexham Branch (unorganized), Newcastle District, held on November 1st. The theme, "The Gospel Dispensations," was clearly developed in song and speech to a large audience of members and their friends who were eager to hear the word of the Lord proclaimed. President Leo E. Bevan and Elders James R. Clark and Henry Groom were in attendance.

Of the West Hartlepool Branch, Newcastle District, held on November 8th. A large attendance of members and their friends enjoyed the presentation, in pageant form, of the "Thirteen Articles of Faith." A faith-promoting and constructive program was presented at the evening services. Missionaries present were: President Leo E. Bevan and Elders Richard G. Johnson, Clarence L. Miller and Delwin M. Clawson.

Of the Gateshead Branch, Newcastle District, held on November 15th. The entire day was enjoyed by all. "The Value of our Church Auxiliaries" was effectively presented in a program of song and recitation at the afternoon meeting. The same theme was very appropriate for the evening services. President Leo E. Bevan and Elders John F. Hawkins and Delwin M. Clawson were in attendance.

BRITISH MISSION ADDRESS: A. WILLIAM LUND, PRESIDENT, 23 BOOTH STREET, HANDSWORTH, BIRMINGHAM

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